

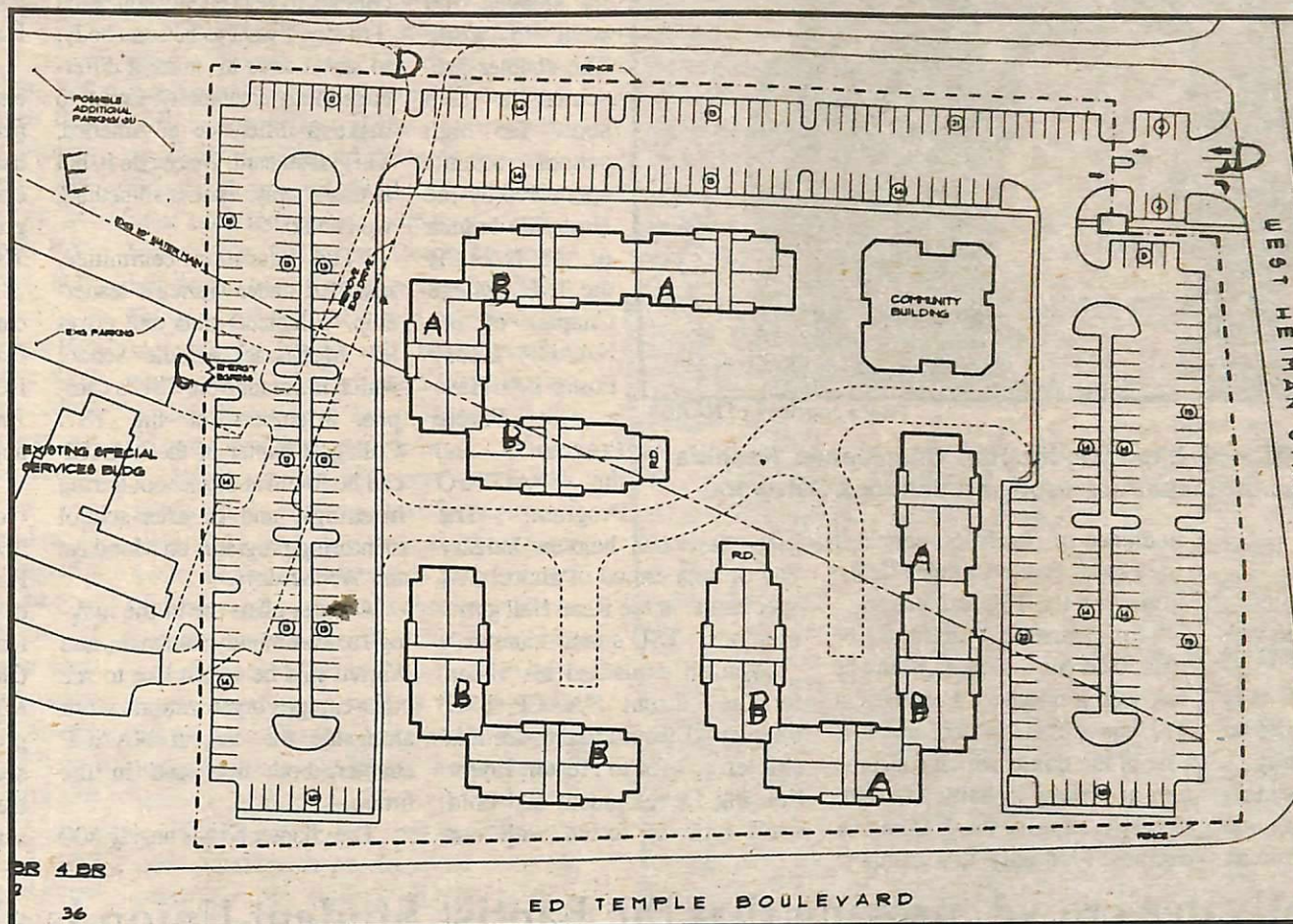
## Plans for new student apartment complex revealed

By BRYAN NEWCOMB  
Staff writer  
and AMBRE S. BROWN  
News editor

Tennessee State University Vice President of Business and Finance, Clay Harkelroad hosted a meeting for Bernard L. Weinstein of Weinstein and Associates and Don Miller of Thomas Miller & Partners to reveal the plans for a new apartment complex projected to open in Spring, 1999. Some students, dormitory directors, Dean of Residence Life, Peggy Earnst; and Larry Carpenter of Residence Life, attended the construction company's presentation.

The new complex site will be located at the lot on Ed Temple Boulevard and West Heiman Street near TSU's security office. The complex will be entirely fenced, with three prospective entrances, one for security (see diagram C) and two for residents (D). An ID card will be scanned to gain entrance to the complex. The apartments will be limited to upper classmen - sophomores, juniors and seniors.

For some students, the announcement is refreshing news considering the present shape of



The plans are for an apartment complex at west Heiman Street and Ed Temple Boulevard.

off-campus housing. For example, shuttle buses that transport the students back and forth from the Raintree Hotel sometimes leave late or depart early. According to a few students who do not own vehicles, the shuttle

is not accommodating their needs or schedules.

The shuttle is supposed to run on the hour. That means if someone has an 11 a.m. class, they have to depart on the 10 a.m. shuttle to get to class on time, not

to mention noon lunch breaks. If students have 2 p.m. classes, they must catch the 12 noon shuttle and wait until their classes begin.

The shuttle stops between the hours of 10 and 11 p.m., creating another inconvenience to stu-

dents who want to utilize the library until 11:45 p.m.

Some students have been able to catch rides with friends who live at the hotel, but what consideration is taken for those who do not have that luxury? Some feel they are missing out on the college experience of living in the dorms, social life, etc. because they are secluded at the hotel. With the addition of security following the recent shooting incident, friends have a harder time visiting and socializing.

Plans are being made to move all students from the hotel. All females have been moved, and 18 males. Plans for the new apartment complex show a combined 120

rooms, housing 456 students. The project consists of twelve two-bedroom apartments (A), and 108 four-bedroom apart-

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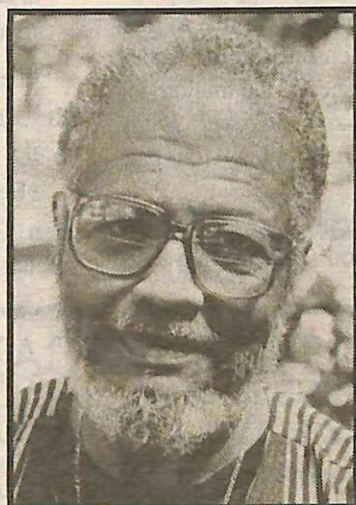
## Africana Studies Department hosts third conference

By APUZO IBE  
Staff Writer

Tennessee State University's Department of Africana Studies hosts its Third Annual Africana Studies Conference, Feb. 28 - March 1, 1997. This year's theme is "Reclaiming Our Culture: Development and the Africa Centered Paradigm". The event will be held in the Floyd - Payne Campus Center, on the university's main campus.

Amiri Al-Hadid, chair of the Africana studies department said, "I expect the campus and the community to become aware of what the department has to offer and hopefully this will encourage students to consider Africana studies as their major or minor - or just take a course or two in Africana studies."

The opening ceremony will be held on Friday morning, Feb. 28. Jacob Carruthers, director of the Kemet Institute in Chicago will serve as the keynote speaker,



Jacob Carruthers, director of the Kemet Institute in Chicago will be the keynote speaker at the Africana studies conference, TSU's climactic Black History Month event.

addressing the theme of the conference. He will also serve as the speaker at the Great Debate Luncheon held Saturday, March 1 where he will speak on "Debate and Good Speech."

An address on health and medical issues in the African world will be presented by oral surgeon Nasir Ahmad, Otis Cosby, doctor of occupational medicine, and Mikal T. Hamin, doctor and licensed accupuncturist and herbologist.

The March 1 conference focuses on "Leadership, Debate and Organization: A Challenge to Student Scholar Activists"

Kwame Leo Lillard, president of the African American Cultural Alliance and Umaru Jutte, station master Underground Railroad will present a student leadership and organizing symposium.

Other events include four lessons on the Medew Netcher (hieroglyphics) taught by Fred H. Davis, and Joseph Adeleru will teach Yoruba. These lectures are scheduled for both conference days.

Africana studies offers stu-

See AFRICANA, page 2

## Tennessee Higher Education Commission grants TSU doctoral degree program in biology

By AMBRE S. BROWN  
News editor

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission granted the biological sciences department at Tennessee State University a doctoral degree program in biology beginning fall of 1998. This puts TSU among a few historically black colleges and universities in Tennessee, with a doctoral degree program in biology.

This accomplishment, after ten years and two department heads, is one of the department's highest achievements. Approved by the Commission Jan. 29, the department received the go ahead to implement the long-awaited program. According to department Chair, Terrance Johnson, the objective of the program will be to give students

"a good strong background in cell and molecular biology and to focus on agricultural and health problems."

Focusing on current projects, Johnson said the program will join forces with researchers in the agricultural and other science departments.

Another key figure in the process was Robert Newkirk, a biologist in the department. Present in the struggle since it began over 10 years ago, he believes the program will fulfill the need for producing biomedical scientists, particularly ones who are minority and women.

"This represents a major milestone in the university's quest to become the prime comprehensive, urban university of Middle Tennessee," Newkirk said.

A look at student  
artist,  
Anthony Thornton  
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Black History  
Month profile on  
Sam Yette, founder  
of The Meter  
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The Tigers B'ball  
season is on the  
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## News

# TSU Chapter of the NAACP gets ready and gets involved



Photo courtesy of NAACP

The 1996-97 NAACP officers, L to r: Cedric Hall, Deon Jones, Rashida Cloud, Delemas Warren, Latasha Anderson and Kendrick Gatewood.

By B. NEWCOMB  
Staff writer

Tennessee State University's NAACP Chapter installed '96-97 officers in January and they wasted no time in becoming an active force in the community.

The chapter installed President Delemas Warren and the executive officers before an

audience of nearly 60 people in the Floyd-Payne Campus Center Forum on the TSU campus.

In Warren's address, he explained his vision and how he has seen a number of changes at TSU since coming here in 1994. One of the things which concerns him at present is unity. He said, "Unity is slipping away from this campus. Not only this campus,

but the campus from the community." Since the new officers took charge, the TSU chapter rolled up its sleeves and went to work. The chapter presented a step show for high school students sponsored by the Nashville branch of the NAACP, the TSU College Chapter of the NAACP, Henry Foster's "I Have a Future Program", and the ACT-SO Program. The

step-show was held in January and drew a crowd of almost 800 spectators in the Kean Hall gymnasium on TSU's main campus. Warren explained his vision for the current NAACP TSU Chapter. "I would like to see this chapter go over to Preston Taylor Housing Development and hold some type of forum with our

brothers and sisters over there; get to know them, reach out to them, and welcome them. Take those young brothers and sisters over there, take their hand, and bring them to campus one day. Give them the incentive to go to college, to get a quality education - to say, I want to be somebody; to say, I want to make a difference in my community; I want to make a difference in America. This is not hard. We can do it, but it takes unity. That is something we can do."

The education committee, installed under Warren's leadership, volunteers time and effort to McKissack Middle School which is not far from TSU's campus. Members of the TSU College Chapter of the NAACP can be found at the school during mornings, and in after-school mentoring programs on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Greater plans are in the making for community outreach, and Warren said he would like to see other campus organizations work alongside the current NAACP chapter, both now and in the future.

The chapter boasts nearly 500

members, and continues to seek more everyday. For Black History Month, members will be at a table in the student center, passing out educational and historical literature to the public and taking donations. The chapter will also show movies for Black History Month.

The group is now planning a banquet. Tickets will be \$15 per person, and the money will be used by the chapter to assist the community and establish a greater bond between them and TSU.

Those interested in tickets can call the TSU NAACP College Chapter President, Delemas Warren, at 963-2051. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

The adviser for the TSU College Chapter of the NAACP is Ron Mitchell. President Warren's executive officers include: Cedric Hall, first vice president; Rashida Cloud, second vice president; Michelle Robinson, third vice president; Latasha Anderson, secretary; Kendrick Gatewood, treasurer; and Deon Jones, sergeant at arms.

## Publisher motivates crowd, proving that the Baptist Student Union is alive and well

By MARLIN D. JONES  
News editor

Teresa Hairston, publisher of America's leading Christian lifestyle magazine, *Gospel Today*, energized students of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) Auditorium on Feb. 4, with ten motivational points-to-live-by.

"You must be willing to do the things today that others won't do in order to have things tomorrow that others won't have."

Those were some of the power words Hairston spoke.

Hairston told students, "You've got to invest in yourself." She explained that people should tackle their shortcomings head on in order to improve themselves. She also said that this meant correcting your atti-

tudes because success is 85% attitude and 15% aptitude.

Hairston said she grew up poor and shopped at the Goodwill Store, but she did not have a Goodwill mentality. "People must separate themselves from their circumstance," preached Hairston. She stressed boldness and not selling out. Hairston said that if keeping your virginity is a goal, then stand up and commit to that goal, because being bold and not selling out applies personally, as well as professionally.

Some of Hairston's other points included believing in one's self, being disciplined, having passion, and not being afraid to fail. Hairston reminded students to be mindful of the three R's: reputation, reliability, and relationship; and the three F's: faith, focus, and fortitude.

Hairston's speech received a standing ovation from the students who gathered to hear her.

Hairston originates from Cleveland, Ohio. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in 1978 from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and her master's degree from Southern Illinois. Hairston has been involved with music since she started playing the piano at the age of four. In 1987, she worked for Savoy Records in New York.

In 1991, she came to Nashville as marketing director for Benson Records. Today, Hairston is the publisher of the million dollar Christian magazine, *Gospel Today*, which she says started out as four-page newsletter in 1987.

This event not only showed that the Baptist Student Union (BSU) is alive and

well on the TSU campus, but it is also thriving in the community. Students came from American Baptist College, Fisk University, and Meharry Medical College, as well. "More students would have showed up," said Pierre Hambrick, BSU ministry coordinator, "but some do not know that we have moved our events from the Forum to this [LRC] auditorium." "In fact, we have about fifty members" stated Chris Jackson, director of BSU.

### Other Baptist Student Union events this month include:

•Feb. 18, Joseph Walker III, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Nashville, speaks on Power to the People Live

•Feb. 25, Amos Howard, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Smyrna, Tenn., speaks on Debt-Free Living

## Taking care of business: a Phi Beta Lambda thing

The three letter acronym TCB stands for taking care of business. TCB is synonymous to the three letter Greek business fraternity, Phi Beta Lambda.

Phi Beta Lambda's mission is to combine business and education in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

This mission is far from impossible for the Iota Omega Chapter, Tennessee State University's chapter of the organization. Phi Beta Lambda is equipped to take care of business with James Ellzy, as the chapter adviser, and Marcus Foster, as the chapter president. The group has seven officers and thirty members.

Phi Beta Lambda pursues five major goals: to develop competent aggressive business leadership; to create more inter-

est in and understanding of American business enterprise; to encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, business and community; to encourage and practice efficient money management; to assist students in the establishment of occupational goals.

The Iota Omega Chapter accomplishes these goals through a series of workshops, seminars, internship opportunities, community services, group outings and by attending and competing in the organization's state competition.

They also hold events, which are open to the public, to heighten awareness of business ethics and current trends in the job market.

Phi Beta Lambda is on the move and invites you to take

care of business with them. Phi Beta Lambda, Iota Omega Chapter is open to all majors. If you would like further information, contact Marcus Foster at 963-7870.

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dents a balanced understanding of Africa centered culture, descent and world history. They provide a curriculum rooted in the cultures, wisdom and scientific foundations of the African paradigm.

The Africana studies conference is free for TSU students with ID, \$5.00 for non-TSU students and \$15 for the Great Debate Banquet. For further information, contact: Lynette Moore, of the Africana studies department, (615) 963-5561

## THE AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT presents

## THE THIRD ANNUAL AFRICANA STUDIES CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 Floyd Payne Student Center

For information contact: Lynette Moore, Department of Africana Studies, 963-5561.



# Smithsonian exhibit, *Songs of My People* comes to TSU

By AMBRE S. BROWN  
News editor

The traveling exhibition, *Songs of My People*, which features 55 photographs taken by some of the nation's top African American photojournalists, opened in the Hiram Van Gordon Gallery on Tennessee State University's main campus on Feb. 9.

Sponsored by TSU and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the exhibit is a collection of photographs taken by some of the nation's foremost African American photographers. The project began during the summer of 1990 when the 50 photojournalists, commissioned by non-profit organization New African Visions, Inc., traveled across the United States taking photographs for the exhibition and book entitled *Songs of My People*.

Curator of the gallery, Michael McBride said the process of getting the exhibit was long and tedious, but well worth it.

"The first contact made with the Smithsonian was by Mrs. Hefner (wife of university president James A. Hefner) in March of 1994. She then contacted me and we went from there," McBride said.

Edwina Hefner, who is a part of the Nashville Chapter

of LINKS, a community civic organization that does service projects, said the Smithsonian suggested that if they wanted to sponsor a exhibit of this stature, they may look in to sponsoring it with a local university. In March 1994, the earliest exhibit they could get was for June 1996. Understanding that June was not a good month for students, they traded with a gallery in Atlanta so it could be displayed during the Olympics.

"This is an excellent depiction of a cross section of African American culture. It is good for the university to collaborate with community groups. It takes the campus out to the community and the community into the campus," Hefner said.

The exhibit on display at TSU is derived from the 150 photographs taken from 215 images in the book, organized by the Corcoran Gallery of Art and developed for circulation by SITES.

The 55 images on display feature the works of 31 internationally recognized photojournalists, including Dudley Brooks, Chester Higgins, Jr., David Lee, and 1982 Pulitzer Prize winner John White.

McBride believes that the exhibit is a must see for elementary and middle school age children. He has sent notices to area schools and

centers to encourage visits to the gallery. "Young people can relate to visual photographs, because they can see the people are real. They are more likely to believe what they see," he said.

McBride added that all students, adults and cultures were invited to attend. "There is something for everybody. This exhibit is about people, about human concerns, social development. If you listen to music, there are different songs and songs tell different stories," he said.

"This is an important milestone for Nashville and TSU, to have a national award-winning exhibit on display in our area," McBride said.

*Syncopated Lives* is a booklet published by the Smithsonian Institute that accompanies the exhibit. It features selected stories and photographs from the larger book, *Songs of My People*. It is available in the gallery for \$3. The book, which features more than 200 images, accompanying essays and an introduction by Gordon Parks, can be ordered from Little, Brown & Co. at (212)522-8094.

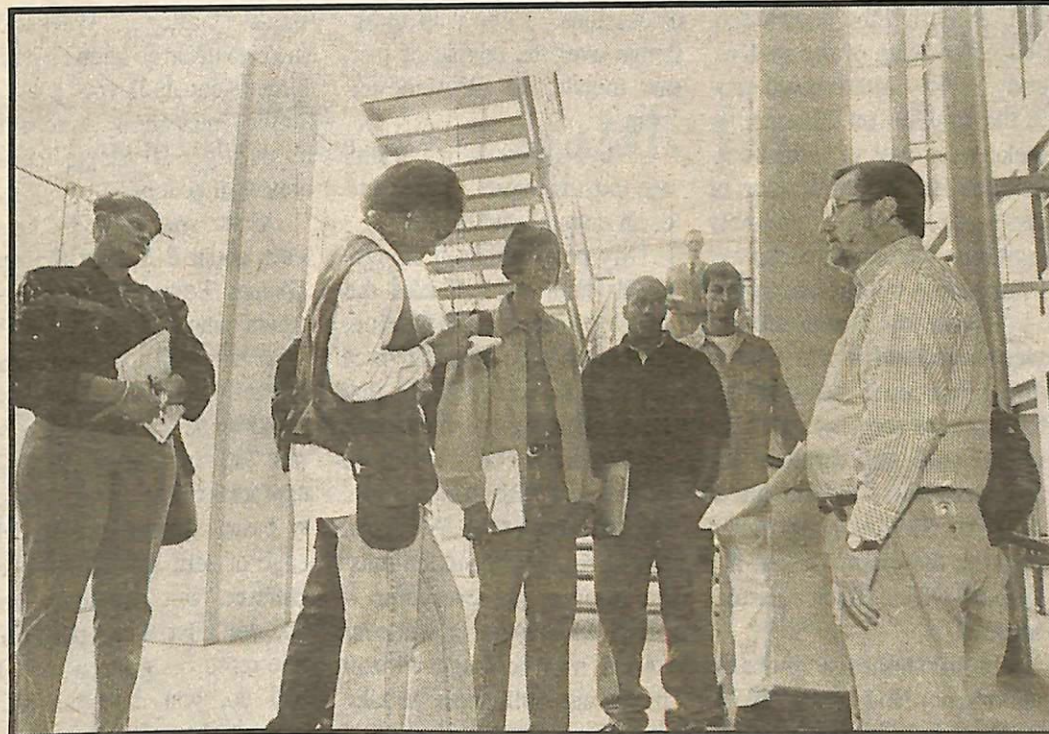
The exhibit will be displayed until March 23. Gallery hours are Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; weekends, by appointment only.



Photo Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institute

Dancer/Acrobat Bernice Collins, of the Ringling Brothers Circus; taken from the Smithsonian Exhibit, *Songs of My People*

## Students get a calendar class in medical ethic



Standing at far right is Vanderbilt Biomedical Library staff person, Danny McCollum, greeting out TSU Medical Ethics Class on their tour at the Vanderbilt Medical Center.

A larger number of students at TSU are choosing to study for careers as health professionals due to major growth in the health care industry during the last few years.

Twenty-eight of these health care students in Professor Bill Hardy's medical ethics class recently toured the Biomedical Library at Vanderbilt University—an architectural-award-winning, multi-million dollar facility which opened in 1994.

The students went to do Biomedical Library research. "Our students prepared papers that covered the history of medical ethics, the concepts of health and disease, human experimentation, ethical issues in organ transplantation, value judgements in medical practice, AIDS and ethics, as well as the national health-care reform proposals that were initiated by President William Clinton," Professor Hardy said.

The tour arrangements for the class were made by Mrs. Marcia Epelbaum, Head of Access Services for the Eskin Biomedical Library. Vanderbilt Medical Center Photographer, Donna Marie Jones, captured the TSU students in several stages of their research and one of the photos is featured in the Vanderbilt 1997 House Organ Magazine Calendar of the Year.

## Hankal Hall hosts authors' forum

By AMBRE S. BROWN  
News editor

James Winston, YeYe OlaOshun, and M. Garlinda Burton helped Hankal Hall kick off its Black History Month activities with its Second Annual Lecture Series on Feb. 4 in the dormitory's lounge.

As publisher and editor of *The Original African Heritage Study Bible*, James Peebles said that "people of color had been waiting on a Bible to focus on their identity for a long time." With over half a million copies in print and additional distribution in Africa, England and the Caribbean Islands, Peebles began researching the Bible out of curiosity. "I had been following the diverse cultures in the scriptures and kept seeing Egypt or Ethiopia mentioned. I began to put two and two together, because I knew the people that they were talking about were black," he said. Once this was discovered, he felt he had no other choice but to "put the Bible together as it should have been, and to change what the King James Version had done to promote ethnicity in European cultures."

Peebles is the founder of Winston-Derek Publishers Group, Inc. and publisher of Burton's *Never Say Nigger Again! An Anti-racism Guide for White Liberals*. Burton decided to write the book because she was "tired of hearing the lies of the past 40 or 50 years about race." Burton said Americans have lied about Columbus' voyage to the New World, the treatment of Native Americans and the negative effects of slavery.

Burton told a story of how she argued with one person about the cause of the Civil War. The man she was speaking with argued that the war was not about slavery, but about state's rights. Burton said she agreed with him, only adding that the war was about state's rights ... "the state's rights to keep slavery." Her book deals with educating people of color about the racism that takes place within the community.

Burton also said that a dollar in Asian and Jewish communities can turn over 3-10 times, while only once with African Americans. "We as a race spend more money on entertainment than any other culture. Of that time, most of it is spent in front of television screens, and less time reading," she said. She emphasized the importance of education while saying she wants "all races to stop lying about racism and start dealing with it."

Another member of Peebles publishing group is new comer, YeYe OlaOshun. She authored the forthcoming book, *Orisha Oshun, 'Iya Omi O', African Traditional Religion*. The work is the first detailed study on the dynamics of the Orisha Oshun, goddess of fresh cool water, in a Yorubic religion called Ifa.

Ifa, she explained, "a guiding light and cohesive link to traditional African thought." It is also the name of the religion and its scriptures. Followers believe in a peaceful existence and observe a set of rudiments after which they pattern their lives. The rudiments - which for common

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## The Meter

STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
OF  
TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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## The Dialogue Box

# From the editor's desk: it's all in the name

The sequel to the O.J. trial finally drew to a close and after all the legal maneuvering and media analyses, one truism prevails – "a good name is more valuable than anything you will attain in this world."

The quote comes from Sam Howard, one of Tennessee State University's most avid financial supporters, and it echoes a Bible verse found in Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is to be more desired than riches, favor is better than silver and gold."

The participants in this trial might have fared better had they heeded those wise words.

Had O.J. never been involved in violent altercations

with his wife, then few would have trouble beyond reasonable doubt of his guilt. Had he never made such boastful statements about his ability to lie, his credibility would never come into question. Had he never denied owning a pair of shoes, then a picture would not be worth a thousand words.

Had the L.A. Police Department never distinguished themselves by prejudice, as well as illegal and unethical conduct, then a plot against O.J. would never be considered a plausible argument.

Had Mark Furman never spoken such bigoted and racist remarks, he would not have

committed perjury and further damaged an already tarnished testimony. Neither would anyone have believed that he planted evidence.

Had America not been scarred by the great injustices done to its own people, then race would not bear on the case. Justice was not served in either of the O.J. cases, and after two trials, unanswered questions and doubt still linger.

Unfortunately, the whole world stood ringside during this spectacle of American justice-at-its-worst, all courtesy of the media.

The media were more than willing to drag everyone and

this country's name deeper in the mud, while they laughed all the way to the bank. In the end, it all came down to the bottom line, including the value of a human's life.

Should we as students and Americans ever hope to establish a good name, then we certainly need to travel a higher road than this – one true to the principles and ideals which we profess as a nation. They are the very same principles which brand us as hypocrites as we sully our good name.

Karen Espenant  
Editor in chief

## It's NOT the media's fault, it's OURS: beware of the camera

For years I have watched newscasts portray members of my race as fools. Each time I turned on the news and saw a brother or sister with curlers in her hair, using non-standard English, I was convinced that it was a plot by "the man" to portray our community as idiots. And each time I grew angry at the reporters for interviewing such people when I was sure that a well spoken individual was somewhere around. But, on Wednesday night – the night of the Watson Hall fire and incidentally my first night of my Channel 4 internship – I found that I was sadly mistaken. The idiotic

search out the news cameras and seem to impose themselves upon them.

While Othell Miller and I raced about attempting to discover the cause of the fire, I saw the Channel 4 camera-woman immersed in a sea of young African-American males, my TSU brethren. As I approached the crowd, I was amazed, no, appalled by their behavior. We forever complain and yell about the stereotypes perpetuated by the media. I was sure that my peers in the TSU community knew about these stereotypes and the ignorance these misconceptions bred. I was

wrong. Due to this, let me explain to you the proper way to represent the African-American race, the TSU community, and yourself in the presence of news cameras.

1. If you are not dressed appropriately, in other words looking like a hoodrat, do not head for the camera.

2. If you do not have a complete grasp of standard English, do not head for the camera.

3. If you do not know what has occurred or how serious the situation is (for example "the whole second floor has caved in"), do not head for the camera.

4. If you feel that the news camera is a really good place to make "shout outs" do not head for the camera.

5. And if you feel that the news camera is your first step to a life of stardom, and therefore feel compelled to showcase your rapping, singing, or any other so-called talent, do not head for the camera.

Maybe these tips can help some decide whether they should be OUR spokespeople, or not. If more of us followed these rules, maybe the stereotypes would die.

Neysa Ellery  
PO Box 2131, TSU

## Let's talk about Black History Month ... all year long

It's February and Black History Month, a time set aside to honor Africans, Africans in America, etc. It is a time to look back at ancestors, reflect on past accomplishments, and give praise and respect to those who survived hardship to pave the way for others today.

So what are most people going to do (black and white)? Most will probably hold ceremonies, go to convocations, maybe spend a couple hours extra in the library per week, catch the specials airing on TV and give praise to black athletes, civil rights activists, writers and educators. This is good ... kind of.

Let's be real! If it weren't for Black History Month, how many speech contests would be held? How many movies would be shown on TV? How many speakers would come to

TSU to enrich the knowledge and self-esteem of the student body? How often would any of the students on this campus make their way to special collections on the third floor of the library (which probably contains the most exhaustive information on this campus)?

I was up there about a week ago, and it was kind of dusty (because no one had been there for a while). How many students, faculty, and administrators would attend Africana Studies symposiums, or even the Great Debate if it weren't for Black History Month?

In all honesty, probably very few. How do I know? Because I go to special collections, I attend the Great Debate, I enter speech contests (when they are held), and take part. I also go to convocations, hear speakers, and take part in

discussions. I don't do these things over the course of just one month, but all semester long.

Why? To know one's self, one must increase knowledge of all cultures and beliefs.

My point is this: If anyone thinks that you can take the history of a civilization, which has been ongoing since time began, and condense that knowledge into 28 days each year, then YOU need to rethink and prioritize your life.

Knowledge of Africans, and Africans in America must be sought by everyone – black, white, Asian ... whoever. And it must be sought with an individual willingness to take initiative!

Take an Africana studies course, go and see, or even take part in the Great Debate, instead of heading to ATL for Freaknic, or Daytona for

Black College Weekend. Make an effort to attend everything (Kean hall was packed for the Greek show, we couldn't even get 10 people for an oratorical contest).

Visit special collections; learn about Big John Merritt, Thomas Edward Poag, and others who have made TSU what it is. Go to Alkebu-Lan Images up the street and read books on Africa's history. Use that \$30 technology fee and explore the Internet on a weekly basis; expand your knowledge of self, as well as other cultures. But, whatever you do, don't let these powerful, free resources go to waste! If you do, you dig your own grave. Ashae (It is done),

B. Newcomb  
Staff writer

## Looking Back

Taking time to look at my race, beautiful black women with style and grace.  
Building on the past of so many men, our culture, our heritage, and where we've been.  
Men, women, and children galore ... My race, my people; you can't ignore.  
Heads up, shoulders back, and walking in stride; the history is there, so I must abide.  
So much strength, yet so very weak, equality and respect is all we seek.  
We will be heard, loud and clear; the crying has stopped, we won't shed a tear.  
Taken for granted and led astray; the time has come, it is now our day.  
March on black soldier, protect your own; prepare yourself to take the throne.  
Be one with yourself and all you believe, the ultimate goal is to achieve.  
Look toward the future but remember the past, only the memories will forever last.

By Keith Barbee



# To smoke or not to smoke?

By LATANYA EGELSTON  
Staff writer

Each day, someone somewhere lights up, and each year, millions of dollars are invested toward that goal — getting someone to light up. Advertising and peer pressure influence most people's decisions as to whether or not to smoke. So, to smoke or not to smoke? That is the question.

The lungs process every breath you take. They provide oxygen to the blood, which the heart pumps throughout the body. They also remove carbon dioxide (a waste product) from the blood. Most adults breathe in and out about 15 times per minute, taking in about a pint of air each time, according to the American Lung Association, and it is up to the lungs to process it all.

Cigarettes contain an addictive drug called nicotine, and nicotine narrows blood vessels and forces the heart to pump harder to process that air. FORCES: the word forces, when used in this context, is not good. Another known fact, documented by the American Lung Association, is that carbon monoxide — a by product of smoking — deprives red blood cells of oxygen. DEPRIVES: another contextually bad word. Do not forget the Surgeon General's warning label on each cigarette pack which clearly states that smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and may complicate pregnancy.

What about the "wanting-to-be-legalized" drug called marijuana?

Marijuana has immediate and long-term side effects according to Jason R. Keyes in his article, *Issues Concerning Marijuana: A Complication of Facts Discouraging*. The drug diminishes inhibitors, impairs perception of time and distance, and creates body tremors — and these are immediate side effects of marijuana usage. It will also interfere with a person's willingness to pay attention. Lung damage, chronic bronchitis, lowering of testosterone, acute anxiety attacks,

and birth defects can develop from long-term use of the drug.

So, why do so many people continue to smoke?

There is good news ... *Lung Disease Data 1996* states that the percentage for cigarette smokers 18 and over has decreased in the past decade. In 1985, 27.9 percent of America's female population and 32.6 percent of America's male population enjoyed inhaling one of America's top contributors of lung disease. But in 1994, 23.1 percent of America's female population and 28.2 percent of America's male population smoked, a 4.4 to 4.8 percent decrease in the number of overall cigarette smokers.

For those battling with smoking, keep in mind that not only do you put yourself in danger, but you endanger others as well through secondhand smoke. For those who smoke during pregnancy "Cigarette smoking in pregnancy accounts for an estimated 20 to 30 percent of low-birth weight babies, up to 14 percent of preterm deliveries, and some 10 percent of all infant deaths," according to *Lung Disease Data 1996*.

The good news ... in 1989, cigarette smoking during pregnancy was reported by 19.5 percent of the women who gave birth, but by 1993, 15.8 percent smoked while pregnant, making that nearly a four percent decline.

As for the marijuana-during-pregnancy issue, scientific studies have shown that babies born to marijuana users were shorter, weighed less, and had smaller head sizes than those born to mothers who didn't use the drug. There is also research data showing nervous system problems in children of mothers who smoked marijuana during pregnancy. Those numbers too, have decreased. However, there is still a significant number of people who play a dangerous game.

For information on how to kick the habit or if you are interested in receiving literature. Call (615) 329-1151.

## Tennessee State University facts:

•Tennessee State University alumni include Oprah Winfrey, television talk show hostess and producer; Jesse Russell, pioneer in the development of the cellular telephone; journalist/columnist Carl Rowan; Kernona Clayton vice president with Turner Broadcasting/CNN; Johns Hopkins surgeon and executive Levi Watkins, who developed the automatic defibrillator for the heart; NBA star Anthony Mason; NFL greats Richard Dent and Ed "Too Tall" Jones; federal judge Curtis Collier; Lt. Gen. Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton, the highest ranking African American in the Air Force; Debonah Scott Ensley, president of Citizens Bank and one of the few female bank presidents in the United States; Nashville Chief of Police Emmett Turner; and Olympic champions Ralph Boston, Wyomia Tyus, Chandra Cheeseborough and Wilma Rudolph.

•Tennessee State University operates more robotic telescopes at one site than any organization in the world. The tele-

scopes are based in southern Arizona, near the Mexican border. Many students benefit from the research opportunities afforded by the telescope site.

•Tennessee State University's Tiger basketball team won three straight NAA titles — in 1957, 1958 and 1959. TSU is the only historically black institution to have accomplished this feat.

•Tennessee State University has had 103 of its football players play in the NFL.

•The Tennessee State University marching band, the Aristocrat of Bands, has participated in three presidential inaugural parades, one for President Kennedy and two for President Clinton.

•Tennessee State University is an Olympic tradition. Since 1950, track athletes from TSU have won 29 Olympic medals — 16 gold, eight silver and five bronze — more than most countries have won.

Courtesy of Public Relations

Web Design Contest  
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## News Briefs

### Nu-Poet's Renaissance

To honor Black History Month, the Tennessee State University Literary Guild in conjunction with Moods will sponsor an open mic night entitled The Nu-Poets' Renaissance. This event features student writers from TSU and other local colleges and universities.

Poetry, excerpts from short stories, essays and rhymes will be performed.

Area authors/poets will also be on hand to present their works.

The event will be held on Friday, Feb. 21, 1997 from 6:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m. in the LRC auditorium located on the TSU main campus.

A donation of \$2.00 per person is requested. Community participation is welcome.

### Koreans give scholarships to TSU students

The Nashville Korean Association invested in its community by establishing a scholarship program a Tennessee State University. Four students in the University Honors Program received \$500.00 scholarships during the association's annual party in December at the National Guard armory in Nashville.

Dr. Sandra Holt, director of the University Honors Program, presented the scholarships to Lovie Grayson, Keinon Brooks, Deon Owensby and Mckenzie McNeal. Holt said that the Honors Program is always in need of additional funding to help students.

### MANRRS begins again

MANRRS, Minority Access to Natural Resources and Related Sciences exists to link graduates with summer internships and jobs. Agriculture and pre-vet majors are encouraged to join. For info, call Will Nesby at 963-5442.



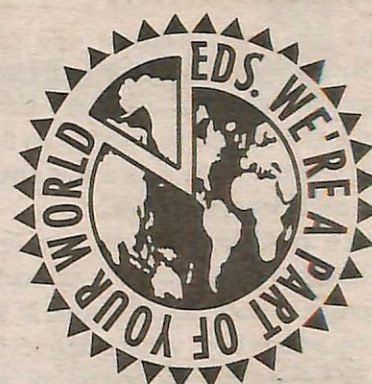
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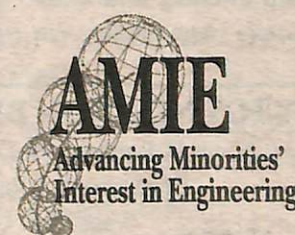
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## Features



Photo by Tamika Stowers

In this work (title unknown) Thornton takes a stylistic approach to his subject matter.

*"The greatest of art is not to find what is common, but what is unique."*  
— Isaac Singer, philosopher

## Artist's Work is Poetry in Painting

By KEISHA D. RUCKER  
Features editor

Tennessee State University student Anthony Thornton views the world through an introspective lens.

His passion for painting reflects life experiences, often depicting ideals for black life in America.

"The basis for my art is my philosophy, my outlook on life," he said.

Thornton began painting in 1989 for the love of the craft, even though he had no formal instruction until he enrolled at TSU.

Inspiration comes easy for this art aficionado. The images just keep popping into his mind.

"I don't decide. It just comes," he said.

Thornton's art style is described as "cubism with Afrocentric symbols." Cubism relies on using solid shapes of real objects with abstract lines.

Aside from its aesthetic appeal, he wants the artwork to epitomize a much deeper idea.

"My art is functional art dealing with a message," Thornton explained. "I don't like it when people take my artwork and don't understand what it's for. The symbols mean a whole lot to me," he continued.

Even though Thornton has sold his art for as little as \$20 to as much as \$350, he gives potential buyers an educational briefing on the significance and meanings of the symbols painted on the canvas.

Thornton is trying to make his name a familiar one in Nashville's art microcosm. His work

has been shown at the Parthenon, Belle Meade Mansion, 12th & Porter, Barnes & Noble Bookstore, and Murfreesboro Museum of Art.

Yet, the politics of succeeding in the art world leave an acrid taste in Thornton's mouth.

"Art politics are about as bad as music business politics. It's not about how good you are or how many degrees you have, it's about who you know," he said. "It's like speaking a different language."

And Thornton is apparently mastering the lingo.

Aside from the demands of his art, Thornton is also creating his own comic strip, "Fightin' Griots".

"It consists of four main characters who fit the profile of young, angry black people," Thornton said.

"They are different [from other comic strips] in that they are put in a society without any elders, so they spend most of their time searching for their elders," he said, noting the scarcity of realistic role models for young people.

Even though Thornton's fanbase is growing, he remains disgruntled with the demographics of his audience.

"What is notoriety if the people you want to see your work don't see it?" he wondered.

Is there hope? Thornton thinks that black people who have been told to snub ethnic creativity need to de-program their minds.

"Art is a part of African culture. People need to recognize that," he said.

## Book sheds light on America's darkness

By KEISHA D. RUCKER  
Features editor

Have you ever wondered why that white boy in your ninth grade gym class had such full, pouty lips and crinkly hair? Or why that black girl you pass by on the way to your dorm has such a pale complexion and a long, keen nose?

If you pick up this book, you just might be clued in. In doing so, you could be surprised to learn that 95 percent of all white Americans have varying degrees of black heritage, and 75 percent of all African-Americans have at least one white ancestor.

The *Sweeter the Juice* by Shirlee Taylor Haizlip is an unorthodox, yet classic, American story. Haizlip, in search of her roots and explanations for her mother's strangely small family, investigates America's fascination and fixation with race through her own personal legacy.

Haizlip's mother, the product of a racially mixed family, is only one-eighth black herself. Yet, she is disowned at a young age because of her hair, skin and features that her family deemed too nappy, too brown, and too African. Therefore, this outcast lives the remainder of her life as a black woman.

She succeeds by marrying a chocolate brown minister and dwelling in a warm African American community in

Washington, D.C.

In this real-life tale of a prominent, middle-class black family, Haizlip discovers that her maternal relatives of mixed Irish, Native American, and African American ancestry, have chosen to assimilate fully into white culture. They negate any affiliation with their black roots.

This disdain of epidermal darkness reveals this nation's continued fear and psychological nausea of blackness. Ironically, these feelings are fostered in the hearts of many Americans, most of whom are of mixed ethnic and racial lineage.

Haizlip's research also brings out interesting facts about her own ancestry. For example, she learns that Martha Washington, President Washington's wife, is her aunt, separated by seven generations.

This narrative of an African American family's saga in this country shows that race is not static.

In fact, it requires a re-examination of the term and what it truly means to be red, yellow, brown, black, or white in the U.S.A.

If nothing else, we might recognize that America is a collective gumbo. And even though the spices don't always compliment one another, we are as mixed up as a canister of Jelly Belly beans.

## AP newsman gives students the write stuff

By GETAHN M. WARD  
Contributing writer

Reading the work of other writers and editing one's own work are key ways students can improve their writing, a local journalist told a group of Tennessee State University students.

"It comes by reading. It comes by taking articles and rewriting them," Lucas L. Johnson, newsman with the Associated Press Control Bureau in Nashville, said.

Addressing a roomful of students in Liquan Yan's news writing class, Johnson said though teachers are important, students can do a lot to improve their writing.

He said students have much to learn from the work of other writers.

"Read books that interest you. Read newspapers too," he said. "Take stories from The Tennessean and the Banner and rewrite."

Johnson also suggested that students practice rewriting their own work.

"When you write a first time, rewrite a different way taking a completely different angle," he said.

He then emphasized the importance of using strong verbs and neutral words in writing.

As a beginning writer, Johnson said he experienced problems with wordiness.

"Before I came to AP, a lot of things I wrote came together — but I could have used shorter phrases," he said.

"You don't want to be wordy. You don't want to bore your readers."

In addition to working for the AP, Johnson does freelance writing. His work has been published in national magazines such as *Essence* and *Message*, a Christian publication.

Johnson said freelancing allows him to write about subjects he finds interesting.

Students interested in submitting articles for publication should learn how to handle rejection, Johnson said.

"When you send something in and it's not accepted, you've got to be able to get back up and send something else in," he said.

"Don't get down when faced with rejection. That's something that's just going to happen," Johnson advised students to write for their campus newspaper while in college.

"Whatever you go into, whether anchoring or whatever, you've got to be a good writer. That's important. That's the foundation," he said.

### WESLEY FOUNDATION BLACK HISTORY FORUM

Lewis V. Baldwin, Ph.D. Associate Professor  
Department of Religious Studies  
Vanderbilt University  
Author of

*THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD:  
THE CULTURAL ROOTS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING,*  
&

*TO MAKE THE WOUNDED WHOLE: THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.*

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Wesley Foundation  
United Methodist Campus Ministry  
3201 John A. Merritt Boulevard  
(across from Lawson Hall)

### HANKAL, from page 3

understanding of their beliefs could be compared to the Ten Commandments of the Bible — consist of such things as praise to one's parents, temperance, and good behavior. The book will feature the history and dynamics of Anago Orisha Worship among other topics. It should be available in April.

Other Black History Month events scheduled at Hankal include:

•Feb. 14, MOVIE NIGHT - A Thin

Line Between Love and Hate and Boomerang

•Feb. 25, A Black Man's Dream: the Story of R. H. Boyd (founder of Tennessee State University and the National Baptist Publishing Board), featuring Bobby Lovett, dean of the department of Arts and Sciences

•Feb. 27, Ebonics: Culture Dialect or Media Mixup?, featuring Raymond Winbush, director of race relations, Fisk University.

For more information contact Eleanor Bass at 963-7922.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

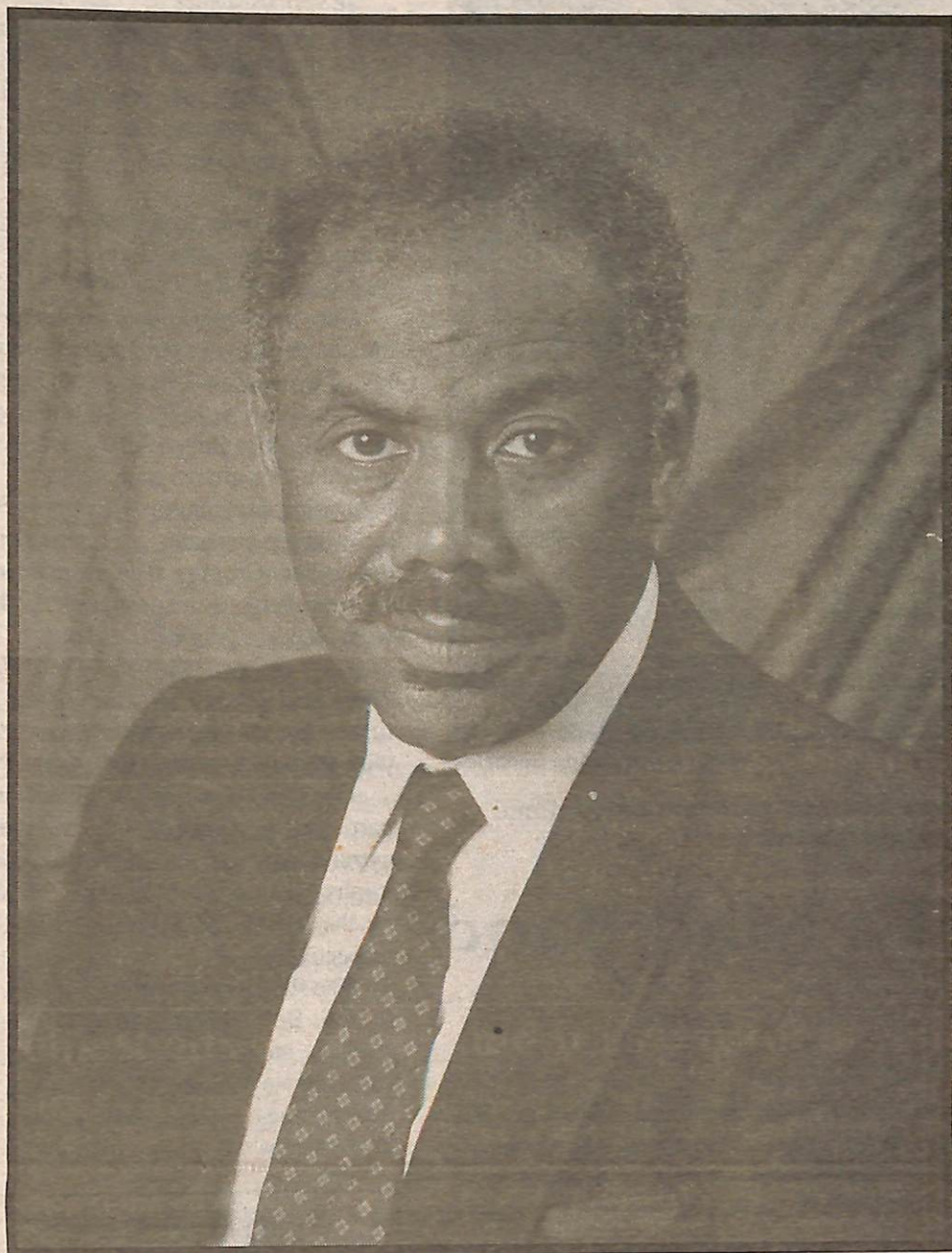


Photo courtesy of the TSU Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists

“

*Keep a sense of humor – not comedy, necessarily, but humor! That is, keep a sense of personal balance, and other things in perspective, as well. It can be the difference between enjoying a front row seat to history and, on the other hand, being overwhelmed by some of life's grim episodes.*

Sam Yette  
Journalist  
Dec. 4, 1993

## Sam Yette, Founder of The Meter

By Marlin D. Jones  
News editor

Samuel Yette, a Tennessee State University graduate, founded the *The Meter*. Yette started the student newspaper in 1950 after he decided to become a journalist and since students were paying fees for a nonexistent publication. He wanted to further intellectual development at TSU.

After graduating, Yette went on to receive his master's degree from Indiana University. Yette continued to excel in journalism while working as a reporter for the *Afro-American* and *Dayton Journal Herald* newspapers. Yette proceeded to distinguish himself by becoming an associate editor of *Ebony* magazine, information director at the Tuskegee Institute, executive secretary of Peace Corps, Washington correspondent for *Newsweek*, and a professor of journalism at Howard University.

In 1972, his book, *The Choice*, was selected as the Non-Fiction Work of Distinction, the highest non-fiction award given by Black Academy of Arts & Letters. *The Choice* also won a special book award from the Capitol Press Club in Washington, D. C., and it is now recognized as a political literature classic.

As a photojournalist, Yette credits his Gordon Parks Assignment for Life as the beginning of his understanding of the power of photography. In 1977, he was one of five journalists invited to China where he photographed the Great Wall. The picture sold in the World's Fair in Knoxville in 1982.

Yette also photographed life in the former USSR. In 1979, Yette was the only journalist allowed to accompany the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on its peace mission to Lebanon.

He is also the co-author, with his son, of *Frederick of Washington* and *Two Marches*, 1963 & 1983.

Yette came back to his alma mater in 1993 during the TSU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalist's Rowan/Winfrey Lectures to advise students and aspiring journalists on the character and philosophical ideas which he believes will help students best serve society.

He said, "Pursue a broad – rather than a narrow – education. Although the need for very specific information is constant, a broad general information bank is the basic foundation. Therefore, read everything.

"Pursue and develop the necessary disciplines of the business, such as accuracy, punc-

tuality, and alacrity. Also, in time, consider developing acquiring business within the discipline. The press is most free to those who own them.

"Avoid unbecoming entanglements and alliances. That is, don't be a joiner, a person who winds up losing, or seeming to lose, objectivity by belonging to every important group or organization he/she might be asked to cover. This is simply one of the necessary conditions of developing, maintaining, and deserving credibility.

"Keep a sense of humor – not comedy, necessarily, but humor! That is, keep a sense of personal balance, and other things in perspective, as well. It can be the difference between enjoying a front row seat to history and, on the other hand, being overwhelmed by some of life's grim episodes.

"Finally, my advice here, as in everything else, is to know the difference between the price of a thing and its value."

Yette continues to write and lecture.

Samual Yette is truly a Tennessee State alumnus who has made his mark in history.

Information courtesy of the TSU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalist.



## Arts &amp; Entertainment



Photo credit Mando Gonzales

NY Loose definitely cut loose at their opening performance at 328 Performance Hall, Monday Jan. 27. Band members are, left to right: Danny Nordahl, Pete Lloyd, Brijitte West, and Marc Diamond.

## Excerpt from the Diary of a Mad Band

By KEITH BARBEE  
A & E editor

It is a quarter to eight on a drizzly Monday night and I am headed for 328 Performance Hall, downtown. Once inside, I feel like I have been caught up in the crossfire of a bad CK One commercial with ripped jeans and spiked hair everywhere. After about fifteen minutes, the opening act, Teen Idols, or as I call them "Three Men and a Blonde," takes the stage and begins their 45-minute set. Not that I could understand a word that the lead singer uttered or distinguish one song from the next, but with so much energy and adrenaline, Teen Idols could quite possibly become, well ... teen idols.

After an immediate set change, the headliners, NY Loose ripped the stage and cut loose with energetic guitar riffs and non-stop drum licks that quickly captivated the crowd. The lead singer, in all of her alternative glamour, kept the crowd on their feet as she sang pop melodies over hard rock grooves. The band is currently on tour with The Reverend Horton Heat.

It is now a quarter to ten (three hours later), the drizzle is now a down pour and I am headed back to Tennessee State - head banging, body piercing, and smelling like CK One.

## Gridlock'd locks you into reality

By KEISHA RUCKER  
Features editor

*Gridlock'd*, starring Tupac Shakur and Tim Roth, is a metaphor for govern-

mental corruption and confusion.

In this film, Spoon (Shakur) and Stretch (Roth) are friends united by their heroin addictions. Their addictions are so intense that they must keep their track

marks fresh to prevent getting ill.

However, this changes when their friend, poet Cookie, a heroin virgin, overdoses on this poison at a New Year's Eve gathering in the addicts' ramshackle apartment.

As they struggle to detoxify their bodies and regain peace of mind, Stretch and Spoon seek federal assistance in hopes of entering a rehab program.

But the government sends the two through a never-ending labyrinth. Spoon and Stretch are sent from building to building, office to office, and line to line. Yet, they establish no resolutions for their predicament.

The biases and inequity of a system based on the welfare of its citizens fails miserably.

Notable points in the movie include performance poetry interludes, in which a stoned Cookie rambles about social ills.

Also, in a conversation with Spoon, Stretch casually discloses that he is infected with HIV. The nonchalance of this disclosure, perhaps, represents the apathy of America's downward spiral.

Not restricted to the common, yet plausible, scapegoat of racism, *Gridlock'd* delves deeper into the issue of economic inequity.

The divide between the haves and have-nots is widening.

Just remember: "Life is a traffic jam." Don't forget to honk your horn.

## Step to this

By KEITH BARBEE  
A & E editor

In various shades of pink, green, red, white, yellow, blue, purple, black and gold, the Greeks of Tennessee State University displayed their talents, stepping to the competition during the climactic event of the 1997 Pan-Hellenic Council Week.

Antonio Jones hyped the crowd and everyone believed he could fly with his rendition of R. Kelly's number one hit.

The ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho opened the show in pure sisterhood, followed by the Zeta's who took the crowd on a heavenly voyage. Next, the lovely ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha escorted us aboard a '70s groove train.

During intermission, we went stomping with the elephants ... er, Delta's and the other Greeks. The Alpha men showed everyone in attendance that they were *Survivin'* as *One in a Million*. The Sigma's tangoed like they had *Been There and Done That* after which, we finally became part of the chain gang with the mighty men of Omega Psi Phi.

Congratulations to all Greeks who participated. Although everyone did an extraordinary job, the first place sorority trophy went to Zeta Phi Beta followed by the AKA's and Sigma Gamma Rho respectively.

The first place fraternity trophy went to Phi Beta Sigma followed by the Alpha's and the Omega's who were (unfortunately) disqualified. One question: Omega Psi Phi - Why must we always show our a——? (literally).

## Cupid cues it up

By KEITH BARBEE  
A&E editor

Candlelight dinners and walks in the park, chance for you to make your mark. On Valentine's Day when it's time to unwind ...

flowers, cards, balloons and such; all add a special touch.

Going out of your way to show that you care, a simple kiss or a great big bear. "Roses are red, violets are blue," this list is for you and your boo -

Monica "For You I Will"

702 "Get It Together"

Dru Hill "In My Bed"

Faith "I Just Can't"

Aaliyah "One In A Million"

Erykah Badu "On And On"

Eric Benet "Spiritual Thang"

Johnny Gill "It's Your Body"

The Isley Brothers "Tears"

Blackstreet "Never Gonna Let You Go"

Horace Brown/ Faith Evans "How Can We Stop"

Mista "Lady"

Case "More To Love"

Ginuwine "Tell Me Do U Wanna"

PHAT TRACK: 112 "Cupid" (how appropriate!)



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# 702 has No doubt about its future

By AMBRE S. BROWN  
News editor

As the female backup group to Subway in the hit song *This Little Game We Play*, 702 left fans waiting almost four years for their solo act to come together. Minus two original members, and plus 18-year-old Kameelah Williams, sisters LeMisha and Irish Grensted finally emerged in 1996 strong with the upbeat, popular *Steelo*.

702, whose name just happens to be the area code of their hometown; Las Vegas, Nevada, appeared in Nashville

recently on tour with New Edition, Blackstreet, and Keith Sweat. Local radio station WQQK 92Q sponsored a listener contest that awarded winners a collection of compact discs and an opportunity to meet and greet the group at Planet Hollywood in downtown Nashville.

New Edition member Michael Bivens discovered the group four years ago at the Jack-the-Rapper convention in Atlanta, soon after he started his company, Biv Ten Records. The group ran up to him in the lobby of the Marriott Marquis Hotel and asked to sing for him. "At first he was skeptical because he was tired, but he finally said okay. After we sang, there was

a big crowd around us," Irish said. Bivens asked the crowd what they thought and everyone yelled "sign them!" He took their phone numbers and called the girls the next day. Within a week, they signed with Biv Ten Records.

702's debut album, *No Doubt*, displays the maturity the group gained over the years and their individual vocal talent. In addition to the hit single *Steelo*, the latest release, *Get It Together*, is currently rising on the charts.

For Irish and LeMisha, they are living out the dream career of both their parents. "This is something that our parents wanted to do when they were younger, and

because they didn't get a chance to do it, we are following in their footsteps," LeMisha said. The girls' older sister and her husband manage the group.

Kameelah and LeMisha graduated last year from the Las Vegas High School of the Performing Arts. They both plan to go to college next year after the tour ends and they get a break from recording. Irish, a high school junior, is being tutored over the Internet. As the member's song titles suggest, 702 definitely has it together with a sophisticated steelo and hip-hop style, no doubt!

## Sister

Sister, you are so strong,  
You are right when I am wrong,  
Sister, you have your own unique style,  
Yet, you must agree we share the same smile,  
Our conversations don't always include words,  
We use smiles, looks and facial expressions to make ourselves heard,  
Some call it intuition,  
We call it twin-tuition,  
Sister-Dear, we moved far apart,  
In the beginning we feared what it'd do to our hearts,  
We should have known nothing would change,  
Only good things could happen,  
There was more to gain,  
Like the realization that you are my best friend,  
From now until forever and since our lives did begin.

Courtney McCoy

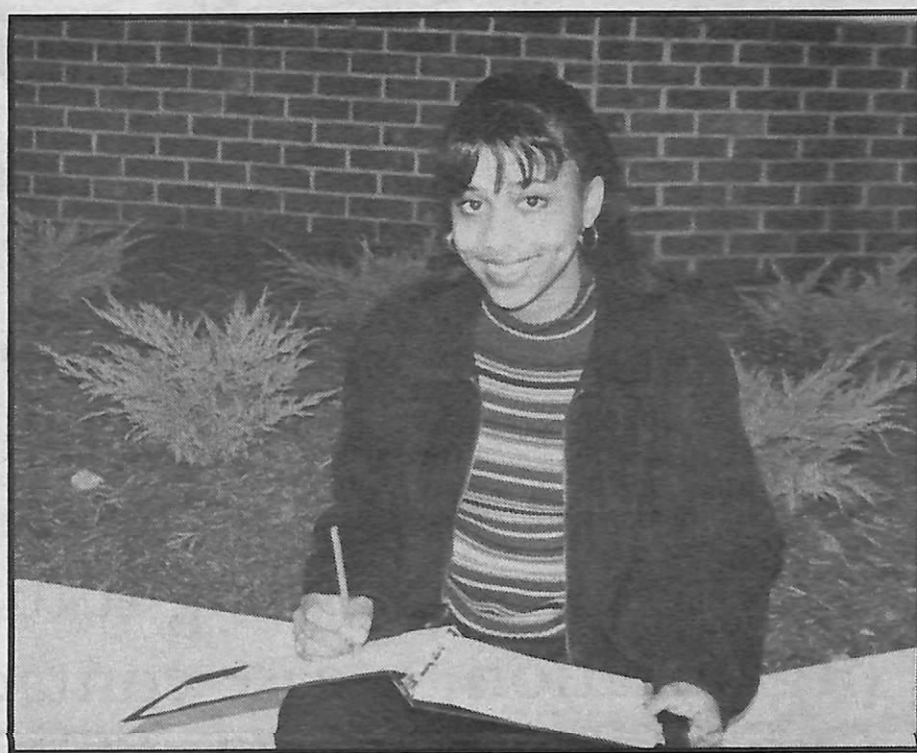


Photo by Tamika Stowers

Courtney McCoy is a freshman at TSU. She is a native of Augusta, GA, and a 1996 honors graduate of Cedar Shoals High School, in Athens. She is a member of the TSU Honors Program. In 1995 her poem titled *Missing Someone* was published in *The National Library of Poetry's* book titled *Sings on the Wind* and the *Athens Observer*.

## Gridlock'd: life is a traffic jam

By B. NEWCOMB  
Staff writer

Tupac Shakur (Spoon) teams up with Tim Roth (Stretch) and Thandie Newton (Cookie) in this Vondie Curtis Hall film to prove that in today's society, the system will beat you before you beat the system.

Spoon, Stretch, and Cookie are members of a band who seem to be doing well, until fate catches up to them. On New Year's Eve, Cookie overdoses on drugs, and falls into a coma. Tired of being strung out, Spoon decides to kick the habit, and Stretch joins him.

As the two embark on the journey toward free Medicaid (so they can be put in detox and get clean), they find out that the system does not make it easy at all. They spend a whole day running all over Detroit taking blood tests, filling out forms, waiting in line, and dealing with disgruntled social workers and clerks - only to find out that they are either in the wrong place, or that it will take much more time than they thought.

The situation becomes worse after crossing paths with D Reper, a drug dealer who follows the two around in an attempt to settle a score. The two also stand accused of murdering one of their local dealers, and find their faces all over the news.

A chase-down and shootout leaves Stretch with a bullet in his shoulder. Realizing that the only way they will get into the hospital and detox is to be wounded, Spoon gets a bright idea and has Stretch stab him. As the two drag themselves into the hospital and fall on the floor, they are again greeted by yet another disgruntled clerk and given a number in the waiting line. Life is a traffic jam!

The movie itself seems low budget, but the actors aren't. This movie will make you laugh. Some scenes will make you squeamish, especially if you're not a fan of blood or needle use. This film bears a striking resemblance to the TSU registration process: long lines, hassles, disgruntled employees, etc.

It certainly relates the message that the system just isn't working in America today. And, after you come out, you might be wondering why you paid to see it.

But, *Gridlock'd* is not a total loss. The soundtrack, definitely one for rap fans to pick up, features Tupac, Snoop, Danny Boy, and a host of others musicians, and is produced by the "untouchable" Death Row Records.

### DORMS from page 1

ments (B). Parking designs accommodate 364 residents' cars. Additional parking space for visitors is being considered.

Plans are for the new complex to be three stories high, and each apartment will be furnished. The first floor will be for handicapped accessibility. The individual room designs, measuring 9 feet x 11 feet for most bedrooms, include one full bathroom for each two bedrooms with closet space, a 6 x 8 dining area, a kitchen, a living room, and some apartments have a balcony.

Rooms will include furnishings: a bed with pull out drawers on the bottom, a desk, and a chair. The dining area will have a table with four chairs, while the living room includes a couch, two chairs, and end tables. The kitchen will feature a stove, a full size refrigerator and sink, with room for a microwave. Contingent upon the overall price, cable hookups and telephone jacks for each individual room will be made available.

The design also proposes two apartments for the the resident directors and assistants. These apartments offer the resident directors a security view of the courtyard so that they may monitor the open area in the complex.

A community building is also planned for apartment residents. This building design includes a salon, a laundry room with eight washers and sixteen dryers, a study room equipped with ten computers and study tables, a kitchen

area, an exercise room, two large rooms for recreation and activities, and storage space for chairs and equipment. The laundry room will be open 24 hours, with scanner card access. A plan for a nearby half basketball court is under discussion, as well. Safety was of prime concern in the complex's plans. The rooms will have sprinkler systems in case of fire, and the walls will be made of fire rated materials which slow burning time to one hour, preventing a fire's travel.

With the use of the ID card scanner, only those residents living in the complex will be able to enter, unless an assailant decides to climb the fence. In the event of this, security is right across from the building and can be in the gate within minutes to assist. There was talk of an intercom system which would communicate to the entire complex, as well as being able to allow visitors entry (i.e. the pizza man).

The price for boarding at this complex has not been set, but it is expected, according to Dean of Residence life Peggy Earnst, to top the \$1000 mark per semester. Those residing in the new apartments will not be required to participate in the meal plan.

Transportation back and forth is not guaranteed, so all who decide to sign up should take that in consideration.

Talks have begun with the Court Villa apartment complex on Heiman Street about renting their complex until construction is completed on the new TSU apartments.



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## Sports

# Tigers turn season around

## Run winning streak to four before hitting 'road' block

By DENNIS GEFFERT  
Sports editor

Following TSU's stunning upset win over Austin Peay on Jan. 18, their first OVC win of the year, Coach Frankie Allen remarked, "We've got lots of basketball left this season. Once we get Monty Wilson back (left foot stress fracture) and get into the tournament, anything can happen."

But what the coach didn't say was that the Tigers would need to improve their conference record to boost their seeding in the tourney. A winning streak was just what the doctor ordered for his young, still melding team.

TSU traveled to Cookeville on Jan. 23 and picked up a key win against Tennessee Tech, 59-57 on a 14-foot jumper by Kareem Gilbert with just 1.2 seconds left in the game. The junior playmaker totaled 14 points for the contest while dishing out his usual 7 assists. Center Jason Johnson scored 17 and pulled down 10 rebounds to pace the Tigers.

Two nights later, a Gentry Center crowd of 6871 welcomed the Tigers home and witnessed a hard-fought, high-scoring win versus Morehead State, 90-82. The Eagles' 11 three-pointers dictated the pace of the game. This forced the Tigers to dial long distance themselves, hitting on 7 of 14. Reserves Seth Huber and Corrie Johnson sparked this barrage and nicely complemented Jason Johnson's game-high 25 points. Fifteen of "Reemie" Gilbert's 21 points came in the second half to help overcome a 46-42 halftime deficit. The occasional levity that Coach Dick Fick had often brought to town with his Morehead squad was missing this night in a game marked by hard fouls and aggressive play both on defense and under the baskets by both teams.

Flush with pride over his team's 3-game roll, Coach Allen said, "We're taking advantage of a stretch of home games and key performances by clutch players in turning our season around." He acknowl-

edged the enthusiasm of the TSU fans and that "staying positive, coming out and supporting the team can make a big difference."

Continuing the winning ways with their third game in five nights, the Tigers laid a sound 82-71 whipping on the visiting Colonels of Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 27 in a game that wasn't as close as the final score indicated. Up 68-50 on a Kevin Samuel 3-pointer with 9:27 to play, TSU cruised the rest of the way in their most solid showing of the year. In winning their fourth straight, the Tigers overcame early foul trouble with key contributions from the bench. Corrie Johnson had the hot hand with 16 points and Seth Huber scored his first career double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Kareem led all scorers with 22. Also in double figures were Jason Johnson with 15 and Kevin Samuel with 11.

Brimming now with confidence and sensing their growing cohesiveness as a team, TSU set out on their toughest road swing of the season, a two game trip to Southeast Missouri and conference front-runners Eastern Illinois. After absorbing home losses earlier in the season to both teams, revenge, as well as running their winning streak to as many as six straight, was clearly on the Tigers' minds. But it was not to be.

SEMO's Bud Eley and his 29 points and 14 rebounds proved to be a bit too much for the scrappy Tigers, sending them to defeat 78-75 despite twin 22-point efforts from Jason Johnson and Corrie Johnson. "CoJo" filled in ably for Kareem, sidelined for the game with a back injury.

TSU's hopes for a split on the road were dashed two nights later at Eastern in an 82-74 loss. The Tigers took a 55-54 lead on a Kareem dunk with 10:16 to play but were then outscored 12-0 over the next 4:09. They closed the gap to 73-68 with 1:17 to play but could draw no closer. Gilbert led all scorers with 22.

At 4-7 in the OVC, TSU's fate is on the line with seven conference games left, including the longest home stand of the season. The four games at Gentry, Feb. 6-13, will largely determine the Tigers' seeding in the OVC tournament. The fact that the final three conference games are on the road makes the homestand that much more crucial.

BIOLOGY, from page 1

TSU's quest for approval began around 1986 when Edward Risby chaired the biology department, according to Newkirk. Although he feels the process has been long and drawn out, the timing pleases him.

"The faculty is better prepared to initiate this program than ever before. We have nine core members who have engaged in research and accomplished significant achievements," said Newkirk. He looked out of the window of his office and smiled. "As I look at the changes in the campus and those improvements, I am pleased, because there will also be changes and improvements internally."

Bobby Lovett, dean of the College of

Arts and Sciences also expressed his pleasure about the program, "It is the first doctorate in a difficult science at TSU; therefore it places us among the elite doctoral HBCU programs in the country," Lovett said.

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